

Wildlife Restoration/Hunter Education Advisory Team

Advisory 2020-021: R3 Events Using Species Other than Wild Birds and Mammals

November 3, 2020



May a State fish and wildlife agency fund an R3 event that includes species other than wild birds and mammals?

References:

1. *Wildlife* means the indigenous or naturalized species of birds or mammals that are either:

(1) Wild and free-ranging;

(2) Held in a captive breeding program established to reintroduce individuals of a depleted indigenous species into previously occupied range; or

(3) Under the jurisdiction of a State fish and wildlife agency. (50 CFR 80.2)

2. "Hunter recruitment and recreational shooter recruitment" means any activity or project to recruit or retain hunters and recreational shooters, including by—

(A) outreach and communications as a means—

(i) to improve communications with hunters, recreational shooters, and the general public with respect to hunting and recreational shooting opportunities;

(ii) to reduce barriers to participation in these activities;

(iii) to advance the adoption of sound hunting and recreational shooting practices;

(iv) to promote conservation and the responsible use of the wildlife resources of the United States; and

(v) to further safety in hunting and recreational shooting;

(B) providing education, mentoring, and field demonstrations;

(C) enhancing access for hunting and recreational shooting, including through range construction; and

(D) providing education to the public about the role of hunting and recreational shooting in funding wildlife conservation. (16 U.S.C. 669a(3))

Discussion: State fish and wildlife agencies may propose to implement R3 activities that would include species that do not meet the definition of wildlife. In this context, we refer to the definition for "hunter recruitment and recreational shooter recruitment." The definition does not limit species for R3 activities to only wild birds and mammals. The new "purpose" added to the Act by P. Law 116-94 is, "to provide financial and technical assistance to the States for the promotion of hunting and recreational shooting." There is nothing in the Wildlife Restoration Act (codified at 16 U.S.C. 669 et. seq.) that limits any activities to only wild birds and mammals. There are restrictions that limit activities under Traditional Wildlife Restoration funds to only those defined as "wildlife" at 50 CFR 80.2.

Advisory: A State fish and wildlife agency may engage in activities for recruiting, retaining, and reactivating hunters that includes using species other than wild birds and mammals (e.g., alligators,

turtles, frogs), as long as the species being used are under the control and management authority of the State fish and wildlife agency. Whether a hunting license would be required to hunt the species is a State-specific decision, as some species may be hunted without a license. These activities would be considered eligible using funds at:

- 16 U.S.C. 669c(c) (R3)
- 16 U.S.C. 669h-1 (R3)

These activities would not be considered eligible using funds at:

- 16 U.S.C. 669c(b) (Traditional Wildlife Restoration)